

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 15-18 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited therein. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims, at least in light of the following remarks.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); and (c) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-4, 8-11 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,208,436 to Cunningham in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,365,889 to Lay. The cancellation of claims 15-17 renders the rejection of claims 15-17 moot. Furthermore, according to the March 13, 2009 Advisory Action, claims 1-14 are allowable. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: March 27, 2009

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